

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04521 181404Z

43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 XMB-07

TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 CIEP-02 /163 W

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R 181235Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6247

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TUNIS 4521

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DIRECTOR OF ABU DHABI FUND: MORE ARAB

AID TO TUNISIA

REF: TUNIS A-92

1. SHORT VISIT JULY 12-13 OF DIRECTOR OF ABU DHABI
FUND ABBES HASSAN ZEKI REFLECTED CONTINUING TUNISIAN
SUCCESS IN OBTAINING FINANCIAL AID FROM ARAB OIL PRODUCING
STATES. IN DEPARTURE STATEMENT AS REPORTED BY LOCAL PRESS,
ZEKI SAID ABU DHABI FUND HAD AGREED FINANCE PURCHASE OF 30
RAILROAD CARS FOR GOVERNMENT RAILROAD COMPANY ASSISTIN DEVELOP-
MENT OF FORAGE PRODUCTIONS AND PACKAGE MATERIAL
PLANT. ZEKI ALSO ADDED THAT MISSION WOULD COME FROM ABU
DHABI TO TUNIS TO STUDY FURTHER PROJECTS IN TRANSPORTATION
SECTOR.

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 04521 181404Z

2. DURING HIS VISIT, ZEKI MET WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA,

PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA AND MINISTER OF PLAN MOALLA. AT END OF EACH MEETING ZEKI MADE STATEMENTS TO PRESS, WHICH INTER ALIA SAID THAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WERE BEING DISCUSSED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: TOURISM, HANDICRAFTS, PHOSPHATES, MARITIME TRANSPORTATION, RAILROADS, PETROLEUM REFINERY, PETROCHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT FACTORY, AND COMMUNICATIONS. ALSO DISCUSSED, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, WERE POSSIBILITIES OF CREATING A MIXED ARAB DEVELOPMENT BANK AND ARAB FINANCIAL MARKET. REGARDING OTHER POSSIBILITIES, TIJANI CHELLI OF INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCY TOLD EMBOFF IN JUNE THAT UAE (AND KUWAIT) WOULD PROBABLY HELP FINANCE EXTENSIVE NITROGENOUS AND PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZER COMPLEX IN GABES.

3. COMMENT: IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT UAE HAS ALREADY PROMISED TUNISIA FINANCIAL AID OF ONE MILLION DINARS (\$2.3 MILLION) REPORTEDLY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TOURIST VILLAGE IN JERBE (USUN 1417) AND \$15 MILLION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS SCHOOLS, DORMITORIES, FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HOUSING PROJECT (TUNIS A-92). ABOVE THREE NEW PROJECTS MAY ALSO BE INCLUDED IN LATTER LOAN. ZEKI'S VISIT (AND CONCURRENT VISIT OF UAE MINISTER OF HOUSING SALMANE WHO ALSO MET WITH PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER BUT WHOSE VISIT RECEIVED ONLY SMALL PLAY IN LOCAL PRESS) FURTHER INDICATION OF GOT EFFORTS TO OBTAIN LOANS AND AID FROM PERSIAN GULF STATES.

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